23013 crores as net internal resources for and during the 7th Five Year Plan. In addition, they were also expected to generate a sum of Rs. 11490 crores towards additional resource mobilisation during the 7th Plan period.

(b) Overall targets of net internal resource generation by central public sector undertakings fixed for the first two years of the 7th Plan, viz., 1985-86 and 1986-87 were Rs. 3438.64 crores and Rs. 3785.57 crores respectively. As against this, as per the available information the actual (provisional) achievement during these years was of the order of Rs. 3185.32 crores and Rs. 3790.51 crores respectively. During the years 1987-88 and 1988-89, the contribution of internal resources expected from Central public sector undertakings is Rs. 3956.01 crores and Rs. 5480.96 crores respectively.

(c) As the information relating to actual achievement of generation of net internal resources during the 7th Plan period is not available from some of the public sector undertakings, the same is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Telephone users clubs

1290. SHRI RAMSINGBHAI PATALIYABHAI RATHVAKOLI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that 'Telephone Users Clubs' have been formed recently;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof;

(c) what is the purpose of forming such clubs;

(d) what are the rules and regulations, policy and aims and objects of the said clubs; and

(e) what assistance and facilities in kind and cash are given to these clubs?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY AND THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI VASANT SATHE): (a) to (e) Telephone clubs are to be formed in Delhi and Bombay to start with. These clubs will be formed at the Divisional Engineer's level and will have meetings once a month. The meetings will be organised in selected places like schools, colleges, public halls etc.

2. The objectives of the scheme are:

(1) to achieve better understanding between staff and telephone users;

(2) to understand customers' needs such as PCO, Telex PCO, Telecom. Bureau etc. better;

(3) to get cooperation from residents for faster completion of cable construction works;

(4) to develop better understanding with the users regarding correct usage of telecom services.

3. The scheme will be totally voluntary and no assistance/facilities in kind or cash would be extended to these clubs.

Payment of TA to the Telephone Advisory Committee Members

1291. SHRI P. N. SUKUL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state the reasons for not paying travelling allowance to the Members of Parliament of attending the meetings of Telephone Advisory Committees?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY AND THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI VASANT SATHE): Travelling allowance for attending the meeting of the Telephone Advisory Committees is paid

to Members, including Members of Parliament, as per their entitlement. However, if any specific case is brought to notice, the same could be looked into.

RMS postal rates for newspapers

1292. SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to have slabs for RMS postal rates for newspapers according to their prices;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) if not, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY AND THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI VASANT SATHE): (a) No proposal to fix slabs for Postal rates for newspapers according to their prices is at present under the consideration of the Government.

(b) Does not arise in view of (a) above.

(c) The Postage rates for registered newspaper are fixed under 'First Schedule' to the Indian Post Office Act 1898 which provides for fixation of Postage rates for registered newspapers according to their weight.

Manufacture of fibre optics

1293. SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Government have decided to use fibre optics extensively for strengthening the communication system of the country; if so, what are the details thereof;

(b) whether Government have plans to manufacture fibre optics in India in public sector, joint sector or private sector; if so what are the details thereof; and

(c) whether it is a fact that a technology to manufacture fibre optics in the country has been developed at home; if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY AND THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI VASANT SATHE): (a) Yes, Sir. Optical fibre cables are planned to be introduced in the 7th Five Year Plan covering a route length of about 6200 kms in long distance network and 850 kms for the local network.

(b) Government of India have planned to manufacture fibre optics in India in public sector as per details below:

M/s Madhya Pradesh State Electronics Development Corporations.	Optical fibre cables & Opto-electronics equipment.
M/s HCL/M/s ITI	Optical fibre cable by M/s HCL Opto-Electronics equipments by M/s ITI.

(c) No, Sir.

Prices of essential medicines

1294. SHRIMATI RATAN KUMARI: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 3512 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 28th March, 1988 and state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Ministry of State for Chemicals stated in Press Conference on 18th December, 1986 that due to higher mark up the prices of essential medicines will go upto 12.5 per cent;